(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of visit of Specialists in nodal centres are given in the attached statement *[See* Appendix CLXIII, Annexure No. 2].

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Directions have been issued to the Chief Medical Incharge of the dispensaries to display the schedule of visits of Specialists to nodal centres.

Manufacture of AZT Drug for treatment of AIDS

217. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian firm M/s CIPLA has since started the manufacture and marketing of AZT (AZIDOTHYMIDINE) drug for treatment of AIDS ; and

(b) if so, what are the details therecan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TITF. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The Drugs Controller (India) has permitted M/s Cipla to manufacture and market Azidothymidine (AZT) in India.

As per the information available, the Company have not yet started marketing the drug.

Incentive for Family Planning

218. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the incentives and disincentive given by Government in order to control the population ;

(b) whether the efforts made are adequate ; and

(i) if not, what further steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The incentives and disincentives given by Government in older to control the population are given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) The existing incentives and disincentives have not been proved adequate. Hence a comprehensive package of incentives/disincentives is being worked out under the revised strategy contained in the Action Plan formulated by this Ministry in consultation with the States/UTs.

Statement

The following incentives are already being given to the Central Government employees who undergo Sterilisation with three or less number of children subject to satisfaction of certain conditions:

(a) A special increment in the form of 'personal pay not to be absorbed in future increases of pay.

(b) Reduction of half percent on the rate of interest on house building advance.

(c) Special causal leave pay upto seven days in respect of male employees and upto fourteen days in respect of female employees.

Some of the State Governments/Public Sector undertakings are also giving similar benefits to their employees under the Family Welfare Programme. As regard disincentives, the only one presently in operation is the one relating to non-availability of maternity leave after two children.

2. No monetary incentives are being given under the National Family Welfare Programme to the members of general public accepting family planning methods. However, under the scheme for payment of compensation, the acceptors of sterili-sEdion/IUD insertions are paid a sum of Rs. 100/9, for loss of wages.

3. Some of the States have introduced a green card scheme under which cards are issued to the acceptors of terminal

methods haying one or t>vo living children as a mark of recognition to them. The card enables these acceptors to be accorded preferential treatment in the areas decided by the State Govt, concerned. Some areas where such preferential treatment would be feasible are sanction of loans, grants and subsidies, house allotment, educational benefits etc.

4. Some States have introduced a scheme of giving lottery tickets to acceptors Of terminal methods.

5. States like, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh have introduced schemes of giving long-term maturity bonds to the acceptors of sterilisation having daughters, only with a purpose to counter the desire to have son(s). Other States/UTs have been advised to introduce such a Scheme.

Shortage of anti-T.B. drugs

219. SHRl SANTOSH BAGRODIA. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a shortage of anti-T.B. drugs in the country and the prices of the same shot up to six times than the original price during the last six months, or so;

(b) if so, what are the cietails thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the prices of such drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) There have been no reports of general shortage of anti-T.B. drugs in the country. The prices of anti-T.B. drugs are fixed/revised as per the provisions of the OPCO, 1987 after careful scrutiny. This ensure that the price increases approved by the Government are actually related to the input costs, Prices of anti-T.B. drugs have been raised upwards by about 15-25% since May, 91 to compensate the manufacturers for increess in input costs due to exchange rate adjustment.

Heart diseases among the children

220. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that more than two million children are suffering from rheumatic heart disease in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to start Heart Care Units in various district Hospitals to save the children from dying of heart disease; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) According to the information furnished by ICMR, in 1991 prevalence of Rheumatic fever and Rheumatic Heart Diseases has been observed to be in the range of 1.4 to 5.1 per 1000 children in the age group of 5—15 years i.e. 0.62 million case in this age group.

(b) At present, Central Government have no scheme to open Heart Care Units in district hospitals. Necessary facilities for treatment of heart problem are available in most of the major hospitals in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Astroiigical calculations on family planning

221. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is also a fact that one Shri Dinesh Verma has made a unique discovery in astrology which pertains to the field of family planning and it has been claimed by Shri Verma that by calculation of time through astrology, family planning is possible; and

(b) whether Government propose to secure the services of Shri Verma on a trial